********** -COMM.JOURNAL- ********** DATE DEC-08-2005 ***** TIME 15:02 *** P.01

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302804

-U.S. EPA REGION 2 REPP -

********** - ***** - 908 906 6182- **********

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REMOVAL ACTION BRANCH
EDISON, NEW JERSEY

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NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 24 + Cover

Action Memo for Matteo Iron and Metal

- will be coming over in two batches

levels increase, it nonetheless provides compelling evidence of the potential lead hazard associated with the excessive lead concentrations found in the soil at the Site.

PCBs are readily absorbed into the body by ingestion, inhalation, and dermal exposure following ingestion of dust or soil, inhalation of PCB-laden dust, or direct dermal contact with PCBs in soil or dust. They may persist in tissues for years after exposure stops. Chemical acne, dark patches on skin, burning eyes and skin and unusual eye discharge have been reported by all routes of exposure. Generally, onset may not occur for months. These effects may last for months. Liver damage and digestive disturbance have been reported. PCBs may impair the function of the immune system and at high levels have been shown to produce cancer and birth defects in laboratory animals. Although PCBs are suspected as a human carcinogen, they have a very low potential for producing acute toxic effects. PCBs bioaccumulate to concentrations that are toxic. A number of human studies indicate that PCBs can cross the placenta and locate in the fetus. PCBs also concentrate in human breast milk.

High levels of hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in soils, largely at or near the surface, may migrate (**40 CFR §300.415(b)(2)(iv)**). Analytical testing has confirmed the presence of elevated levels of lead and PCBs at the Site in the upper two feet of the soil. During dry conditions this material becomes airborne more readily, especially in the active scrap yard, where the soil is more readily disturbed by heavy machinery and vehicles and near the campfire location. Persons that access the Site can accumulate the material on their shoes and possibly carry it into the home resulting in potential exposures to young children, if present. The crushed battery casings that line the southern bank of most of Hessian Run and come into direct contact with the creek itself during high tide, are a continual source of contamination to the tidal freshwater marshes.

Weather conditions exist that may cause hazardous substances to migrate or be released (**40 CFR §300.415(b)(2)(v)**). During flood events the potential exists for high levels of lead and PCBs to be spread across the Site to areas with lower levels of contamination and to the adjacent residential trailer park. This also increases the potential for further contaminant migration into the creeks when the waters recede. A flood event in April 2005 resulted in approximately half of the Site being inundated at approximately the 100-year flood line.

B. Threats to the Environment

There is an actual or potential exposure to nearby animals or the food chain from hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants (**40 CFR §300.415(b)(2)(i)**). Acute sediment toxicity testing conducted by the NJDEP revealed that a sample collected at one of the stations in Hessian Run, across from the battery casing burial areas, showed 100% mortality to the benthic organisms tested. Significant mortality was also observed from the sediments near the western portion of the Site, including near the confluence with Woodbury Creek. Surveys conducted as part of the aquatic biota study revealed that both the indigenous benthic macroinvertebrate and fish communities were less diverse at the four stations adjacent to the Site on Hessian Run than at the reference stations. Concentrations of lead detected in the wetland plants at stations near

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Figure 3